

SQUAT IT...

MARCH/APRIL No. 12

LIVING IN A SEWER?

THE HOUSING CRISIS STINKS!

MT AS - Problem in
to the Squatters Union
481 8017

whats happening

- 14/1-2 wimmin evicted from squat in Dandenong
- 15/1-Collingwood Cyss closed down...
- 24/1-Squat opened in Kew-mostly U18s still going strong
- another stupid landlord rings up wanting our help to evict squat
- 26/1-Invasion Day demo in Sydney... 50,000 people
- 1/2-Fire Station regains electricity- and the SUV our answering machine
- 2/2-squat opened in Broadmedows
- 4/2-new squatted cafe-the Emporess opens at 253 Wellington St
- still going every Thurs Night
- 7/2-Wimmin demonstrate against National orgy day re-enactment at Princes Pier Port Melbourne
- 2-Interview'bout the SUV on RRR
- hearing dates set for Northcote'2
- arrested on 2/1 at eviction
- dates are 3/6,10/6
- Squat opened in South Yarra
- still going strong
- 11/2-Squat opened in old Cinema, Clifton Hill-evicted following day by Catholic Church-'how can you expect them to be charitable when you just go out there and take it!
- 18/2-squat opened in Maidstone
- 19/2-squat opened in Preston-still going
- 23/2-request from Last Laugh that Squatters desist from putting posters on their clean walls...
- 24/2-soup kitchen at Footscray DSS organized by Footscray Unemployed Action Group-yummy pumpkin soup
- 27/2-NUUP conference[also 28/2]-attended by over 40 people-see report
- benefit gig-4 bands-100 people
- raised \$80-thaxn to all[offices not broken into for a change]
- 3/3-Stall in Mall by UWU and SUV for National Unemployed Day...
- 9/3-Squat evicted in Clifton Hill after going 6 weeks-owner gave 3 weeks notice...how nice
- [also another squat in collingwood lasted for a few weeks-unsure of details]

CONTRIBUTE NOW!



10/3-ALP unpublicized public meeting to consult with public re change to dole disrupted by unemployed people who didn't want to listen to a bureaucrat from Canberra telling how well off they were...

ALSO

-there were 33 people who called up wanting info on squatting who may or may not have squatted... and 16 empty homes called in by people who wanted to dob in a land-leech -ta muchly to all of them...

SU AIMS AND POLICY

- we are an organisation who aim to create and defend resident/community controlled housing.
- we have no leaders, all decisions are made thru consensus. Responsibilities are carried out on a voluntary basis by delegates who are answerable to the group.
- we are an autonomous group and remain independent of political parties, institutions, heirarchic unions and other organisations.
- we recognise the history of massacre and oppression of aboriginal people for land, and these peoples struggle for land rights and self determination.

WE AIM:

- to promote a clear understanding that it is the present system in which we live that creates homelessness.
- to promote solidarity amongst squatters, tenants and owner occupiers and to fight to abolish all authoritarian institutes such as the state (including it's socialist variety), capitalism, patriarchy and all heirarchic and oppressive divisions between people. We give solidarity to others involved in these struggles.
- to promote 'housing as aright' and to use all methods possible to combat homelessness and housing being used as a commodity.
- we aim for a free and equal society and to reflect these politics within the union.

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AND

- ...yet another pull-out
poster about the new cafe
and squatting in Spain

EDITORIAL POLICY

***ALL contributions are welcome, however the SU asks that the interests of the Squatters Union be considered if you wish to have them published.

***.To assist in fast production of this magazine we request you type, or prepare, your own contributions in 8cm columns. Due to limited time and energy, priority will be given to typed/prepared submissions.

*** The SU requires that ALL articles be non-oppressive (eg. non-sexist, non-racist, non-ageist etc)

*** The editorial collective consists of the volunteers that produce the particular issue of Squat-It.

*** If the article/contribution is deemed unsuitable, the collective, when possible, will refer back to the author before publication. Otherwise it will be considered for the next issue.

***THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN SQUAT-IT ARE THE VIEWS OF INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE VIEWS OF THE SU!!!!

You can't dupe the NUUP

On the 27th/28th of Feb, unemployed people and delegates from several unemployed groups from around Australia got together for the 9th Conference of the NUUP (National Union of Unemployed People) to organise against the continuing attacks and scapegoating of unemployed and 'welfare' recipients.

Several interstate groups were represented including Launceston UWU, UWU Melb, WOW (Wollongong), CUWG (Canberra), and the SU.

The weekend consisted of workshops & discussions on various unemployment related issues such as the planned restructuring of welfare payments, DSS info gathering powers, under 18 dole cuts etc. Report back sessions at the end of the workshops ensured that participants got to share all the info coming from the discussions.

The gig on the Sat. night was a reasonable success (Thanx to the bands that

contributed) and money raised there helped cover the costs of the weekend.

Sunday saw more priority put into the organisation and the afternoon saw us tightening up of the communication, co-operation and co-ordination between member groups and individuals. Also, a National Day of Action was planned to oppose the imminent changes to the 'welfare' structure which impose even stricter requirements for eligibility, and greater powers to the already omnipotent D-SS officers.

Overall, the weekend was successful & bar a few problems with the small business capitalist unemployed group (SAUGA) was extremely thought provoking and constructive. For more info you can contact the SU on 481-8097 or the UWU on 481-1155.

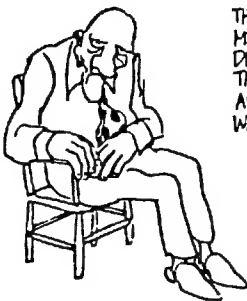
...OWE US A LIVING?....

...COURSE THEY FUCKING DO!!

USED
THINK
I WAS
POOR.



THEN THEY
TOLD ME
I WASN'T
POOR, I
WAS
NEEDY.



THEN THEY TOLD
ME IT WAS SELF-
DEFEATING TO
THINK OF MYSELF
AS NEEDY, I
WAS DEPRIVED.



2-21

THEN THEY TOLD ME
DEPRIVED WAS A
BAD IMAGE, I WAS
UNDERPRIVILEGED.



THEN THEY TOLD ME
UNDERPRIVILEGED
WAS OVERUSED. I
WAS DISADVANTAGED.



I STILL
DON'T
HAVE A
DIME.



BUT I HAVE
A GREAT
VOCABULARY.



re-CYSstance

cont'd...

At the NUUP conference there was a workshop on defending CYSSs attended by unemployed people and 1 sympathetic CYSS worker. At the workshop we talked about the experience of defending Collingwood CYSS and what lessons there were to be learnt from it...

Some conference participants felt that there were only a limited number of CYSSs that were worth defending in the first place as they were basically controlled by the workers or community leaders at the expense of the unemployed people however it was recognized that some have high levels of unemployed control, are staffed by formerly long term unemployed people [rather than long term social workers] and ran programs that were empowering for unemployed people and did not perpetuate the myth that there were jobs out there to be had if only unemployed people weren't so slack...

It was felt that the change for CYSSs due in late 1988 to Community Volunteer Programs with emphases on labour market schemes [eg. how to look for work when it isn't there] and voluntary work for dole schemes would be inflicted most heavily on these CYSS as the other CYSSs wouldn't put up much resistance-and so there would be other Collingwoods where the government tries to shut CYSSs down rather than change their name.

A series of ideas for future occupations was drawn up-they weren't agreed upon-there was no decision either way made-but they reflect the ideas brought up in the workshop....

One point was that there was a need for pre-preparation-to be ready before hand-even to the point of having posters made and lists of people to call ready. There was general agreement on the usefulness of an ASWU picket line

as a way of buying time-as TWU members [the removalists for the gov't won't cross official picket lines. Once the occupation had begun there were a number of suggestions like having regular meetings to run the occupation, having a wages pool to pay all occupants according to the work performed.

Gaining local support was also mentioned through such means as paste-ups, local media, notices in local shops, leaf-letting the DSS and graffiti. Some people also thought it was important not lose momentum by just occupying-the alternative proposed was to attack via occupations etc the government as hard as possible to try and break them [as opposed to allowing them to sit it out as at Collingwood.



Getting support from other CYSS groups was also mentioned-with an emphasis, however on contacting 'participants' directly via visits rather than hoping workers would pass information on.

Finally the need for community space for unemployed people was stressed-that space could be got by squatting and materials redirected from CYSSs. One of the government's best tools for introducing work for dole would be to keep unemployed people stuck in their homes with nowhere to go [and no money to go...] rather than having them together in 'troublesome' groups...

Swot NOW!

Potato crisps for breaky,
Coffee on the yawn,
Here I am on skwotters shift
Working in the morn.
If your a member of the state
Its you that pays the rent,
But if youre just a victim,
You shouldnt pay a cent.

CHORUS

Skwot,skwot now!
You really have no choice.
Skwot,skwot now!
Its time to raise our voice.

One day when your evicted,
And the bastards kick you out,
You find yourself in desperateneed,
Skwottings what its about.
Theres thousands of empty houses,
Cluttering up the street,
Go out and find yourself a home
If you really want to eat.

CHORUS

Theres no better time than now,
To accomadate a skwot,
Change the locks on all the doors
And show them what is what.
The revolution starts at home
So skwot a house today,
Weve really got to show them
There is no other way.

CHORUS

POLICE POWERS,

THE SAGA CONTINUES...

The amusing attempt by the police to convince the public of their need for more powers continues unabated... however as the real story of the farcical nature of police Internal Investigations becomes more clear, the police, led by their charming inspector, Mr Glare-no kidding-have begun to shed their charming public image and have started to throw some mud around.... anyway it all started with The Age of Feb. 18th...the government's commitment to public debate, amply shown by the fact that it took a month, even, for the Vic. Council for Civil Liberties [hardly known for their poetic ability unlike some groups] to receive a copy of a report that showed that only 2.4% of charges of assault against the police were sustained by the Internal Investigations Department, leading the former Commonwealth Ombudsmen, who wrote the report to muse, 'Were the results to be understood publicly, it would add fuel to the argument that it was a waste of time to make a complaint...'...thereby explaining why all possible attempts were made to keep it under the bobby's hat as it were...

Basically if you were beaten up in a cop shop, the coppers would get together and make up a story, and you'd be up shit creek without a paddle of 'substantial, independent, corroborative evidence' ho, ho, ho...never fear, though, 'cos I.I.D. is cleaning up their act even to the extent of actually interviewing all the coppers involved at one time [tho maybe weeks later...] supposedly to stop them collaborating in the half hour after the bashing occurred...

Anyway our Friend inspector glare was outraged by suggestions that per-

haps 2.4% wasn't a terribly impressive figure and responded with some totally unwarranted attacks on civil liberties groups, alleging that they were shady groups that did nothing but criticise...well they may be a bit wimpy in slagging off the cops, but shady? the only feasible response is that if the civil lib groups are shady, then what about the police force-a figure of 2.4% would make Marcos proud of our lads...



Speaking of shady groups, there is a little number in South Melbourne with an answering machine that does a good Darth Vader imitation-they're called 'VOCAL' Victims of Crime Assistance League. These characters have spoken at Neighbourhood Watch groups round town in support of more police powers.. what's that got to do with assisting victims of crime eh? and what's Neighbourhood Watch got to do with blatantly political issues like police powers.. fukin heaps if they are like the Nazis Blockwart scheme.

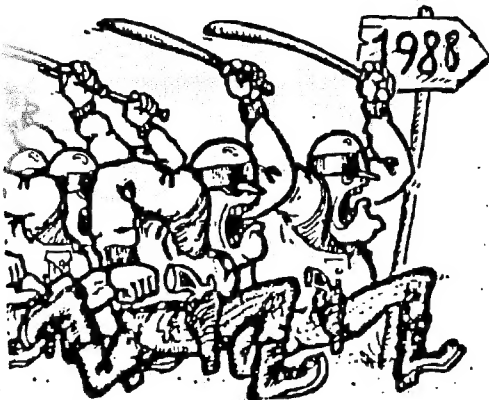
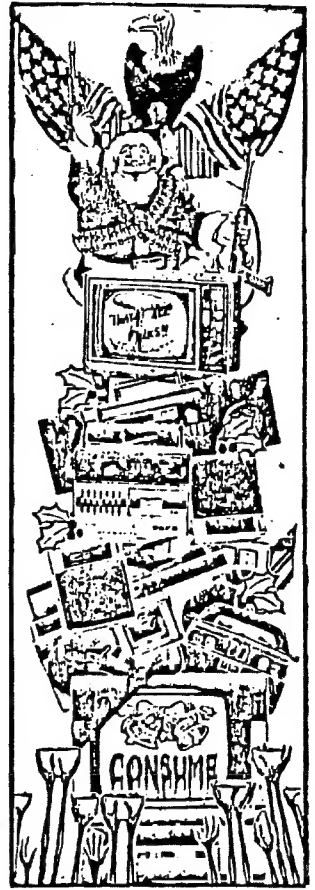
JUNK MAIL FROM AMERIKA

Dirty little river-dirty big town
this ain't Toorak-there's no trees around
just clapped out factories
a dirty sullen sky
and junk mail from amerika
screaming mom and apple pie

The bosses lies in print
lies tattered on the ground
a bit of breeze needed to turn it round and round
it flies in a manic dance
dressed in grey-up and away
to land somewhere more appropriate
maybe...fat chance

Pan pipes whisper
through rusted iron
and tears of glass
and a stream embalmed in concrete
spreads chemical stench around

Hawke's 'recovery' is nowhere to be seen
the sun goes down on riverside dreams



NOWHERE LEFT TO RUN

Well i don't live in Brisbane
tho i wouldn't fukin know it
the cops asked for ID
but i wasn't gonna show it
they chucked me in their van
i got the bruises to show it

Well i don't live in Brisbane
tho i wouldn't fukin know it
they had their telephone book
but they weren't gonna throw it
and they cover for each other
and we all fukin know it...

Trains after dark are pretty hairy places. To add to a pleasant cocktail of unlicensed thugs we now have the heady bouquet of the Met's Transit police. These uniformed thugs come from a marriage of the previously discredited Railway cops (minus those stupid enough to make it to the front page of the Sun) and our very own favourites the Vic Police (who are generally clever enough to do their bashing in private.)

Transhit police can chase you off railway land, do strip searches and generally harass at their own discretion... It's completely up to them if they don't believe the station you got on at was unstaffed or if you're only 14... Ireckon our only protection against these thugs is the presence of the public transport workers... It'd be great if the cops on trains were met with a few of the beer bottles stashed under seats but in reality many people although sympathetic to you as you get busted can't afford to get busted as well...

I'm still really grateful to the train worker who stood around for 20 minutes after I got busted by these filth and was dutifully searched and questioned by 6 plainclothes-ers all at once (you know the joke-why do police hang around in 3s?... Coz one can read, one can write and the other likes the company of intellectuals - well with railway coppers they have to do it in sixes). I reckon the only thing stopping the cops taking me away for the night was the fact that there was someone hanging around...

Members of the Ticket forgers union are not the only ones to have to fear these cops... what the government wants to do you see is sack all the guards and conductors and just employ more police to make sure everyone is still paying for the increasingly shitty service... the ads for the transit police say that if you call their hotline they get coppers there fast... how can you call the hotline from a train eh?...

GUARDS NOT GENDARMES...

It's stating the obvious that guards are there all the time to keep trains safe and accessible to all - and the same goes for connies too. Next time they go out to protect their jobs they'll be needing our support too - just remember the knowing smile you get from a connie as they give you a ticket without a concession card... or when they don't look too hard at your bodgie..



ppps

noticed how the met has issued new size tickets to make it harder to forge 'em in early days on the tickets...

- connies have to pay for any tickets they haven't sold so stealing from them is pretty fucked...

- connies now also have identifying ticket stamps so if you've got the time, cutting a ticket to a normal shape if you haven't got a concession card is a good way of protecting a connie who's supported you (what is a normal shape? a rectangle like on buses and trains).



Visiting punk rockers will have to beat it

Victorian punk rockers who are believed to have been as pets have ousted their welcome in the Byron Shire. The group, numbering six or seven men and women, will be invited to leave the area road reserve near Main Arm and making regular trips into

Mullumbimby. Some residents have complained to the council that members of the group, who have brightly coloured hair, are dirty and unkempt and carry around rat as pests. They say that the punk influence is a disturbing influence in the town and are upsetting some elderly residents.

The group has been in the Byron Shire since before Christmas. They were camped on land near Tallow Beach, Byron Bay, for several weeks before taking up a suggestion from

Byron Bay police that they move on. A police spokesman said yesterday that they had kept a "pretty close eye on group members since they had come into the town and had spoken to them on a number of occasions.

At Tuesday night's meeting of the Byron Shire Council, Cr B Boniface, who described the group as "unusual", said they were camping in an area with no amenities. He said that the council ask the group to move. He said that the people of

Mullumbimby were "most unimpressed" with the group's activities. "The community would like them to be invited to leave the area," he said. The council's development director, Mr J Fanning, said yesterday the group was camped illegally and would be asked to move.

BYRON BAY IS QUITE A THRIVING METROPOLIS THESE DAYS. ALL THE OLD DIRTY SMELLY LONGHAIRED HIPPIES HAVE GONE AND GOT THEMSELVES HAIR CUTS AND RESPECTABLE JOBS. MADE LOTS OF MONEY AND ARE NOW WELL RESPECTED YUPPIES. AS MANY A REDFACED OLDER RESIDENT WILL TELL YOU THAT THEY'RE TOLERANT OF ANYONE WHO CONFORMS TO THEIR RAT FREE. CHRISTIAN MORALITY. THE EMPTY ACCUSATIONS OF THE MEDIA ONLY FEED THE ARROGANT BIGOTRY OF THE FAITHFULL MINDED GREED HAVE THEIR SHOVE THESE DIRTY MULTI-COLORED LAPDOGS THE POLICE UNTOUCHABLES. IT'S THE SAME STORY. HIPPIES OR GIPSIES OR

26-1-88 Sydney

Tall ships, self-congratulatory empty speeches. Lies about how good everything is in this country. While 2½ million non-Aboriginal Australians lined Sydney harbour to celebrate '88, Invasion Day was being marked by one of the most historic gatherings of protest for Aboriginal rights ever held in Australia. Aborigines and their non-Aboriginal supporters, including representatives of other oppressed indigenous groups from other countries, joined together in a rally that received worldwide media attention.

The atmosphere was electric. I saw the convoy arriving from the west a few days earlier. Tears were shed - Aboriginal people were really excited to be together from all over the country. There was also sadness and mourning. We whites expressed some of the emotion expressed at occasions like the ceremony for people who had died in custody, when members of their families spoke. "Uncle died..." "We don't believe our son committed suicide..." "My friend..."

I'll mention some of the things that stick in my mind from the days spent there. There were smashed windows. BARC - the Bicentenary Action Revolutionary

Commandos (a front group for a well-known racist organisation) had paid a visit to Tranby Aboriginal College - they took their bricks with them.

I was warned by several whites to keep clear of Redfern. A police sergeant remarked, "If you want to get on the side of the coons, go down to the Empress Hotel and get the shit kicked out of you and see what you think then." I pointed out that I had already been there and was still intact. In fact, I valued the chance to sit down with people who greeted me as 'brother' or 'cous' (cousin). We yarned, and I enjoyed it..one of them is now in custody.

There was a womyn who had lost a relative in custody. She told us how she had been dragged through the main street of town by the police. They put a noose around her neck.

After the main march, an Aboriginal friend from Melb. said to me, "Thanks for marching," but I'm conscious that joining a march does not demand too much of us. I was recently reminded that white people have been sitting around talking about what's been happening for 200 years. White injustice is white responsibility.

From ARSC Newsletter.



Advance
Australia
Where?

S.U. Stats. 87'

THE FOLLOWING ARE FIGURES RELATING TO PEOPLE WHO SQUATTED OR CONSIDERED SQUATTING IN MELB 1987-....

-these were derived from the squatter union of Victoria and Western Region Housing Council. The figures are only an estimation due to the instability of squatting and the changing circumstances of homelessness eg. a person may squat several times in a year or may find suitable rental accomodation. And of course not all squatters contact the union.

There were also many inquiries made to the SU and WRHC about the availability of a potential squat- the address of an 'empty' and what's involved in setting up a squat. For the enquirer this is not in itself necessarily, a positive indication that they end up squatting. But this for the enquirer, is a reflection of their housing crisis.

Total[squatted]	-485
-womyn[single]	-242
-men [single]	-144

-households[single ♀+kids]-86
-households[nuclear fam.]-14
-there was 1 single male and kids

Total[inquiries]	-181
-womyn	- 85
-men	- 55

-households[single ♀+kids]-30
-nuclear
-households[nuclear Fam.] -11

If squatting, is seen as the last resort in finding viable housing in this society these figures suggest that womyn are effected much more by the housing crisis than men.

These figures also highlight particularly the bias this society has towards the nuclear family in that single womyn with children figure highly in being homeless and this leaves them no alternative but to but squat.

Invariably people who squat are D.S.S. recipients and therefore live in poverty. The majority of D.S.S. are womyn. At present there are over 3 million people in Australia living in poverty, 78% of these people are womyn and children under 18 years old.

Womyn own 1% of the worlds wealth and earn 10% of the worlds income but do 2/3rds of the worlds work. In Aust. womyn workers earn 67% of the average^{male} wage. Income, marital status, and sex denotes whether one is homeless or not. Basically society ignores these facts and in this masculanist society the individual is held accountable for their situation regardless of sex. Ignoring the greater hardship experienced by womyn.

Basically womyn are incidiously oppressed by this society and the lack of housing for womyn typifies the oppression and perpetuates womyn's situation as one of subervience often denying womyn, self-determination.

In my opinion that for the majority of people who squat, is an action taken on not for political resolve but as an action to alleviate the plight of homelessness.

But the personal is political and whether the individual recognises it or not that their action of squatting is a political act just in and of itself. It is a strong act of self-determination. Squatting is breaking the wall, squatting is not respecting private-ownership, squatting publically highlighting the inadequacies of this system. Unemployment, lack of adequate public housing, a rental market tailored for the elite of our society. The potential waste of available resources in this society. eg. empty rotting houses & buildings, Poverty and injustice and the necessity of the demise of this society.



THE FOLLOWING ARE FIGURES
RELATING TO OTHER CONCERNS OF
THE SQUATTERS UNION.

Reports of empty houses -80
& other buildings
(Often these reports would
involve more than one house).

Evictions (not counting evic-
tions that took place in -27
the West)

Arrests that took place in re-
lation to squats or squatting -35

Information distribution &
mass media contact
eg. media interviews -116

Poster paste-ups -2000

Leaflets distributed -10,000

Pickets -7

The squatters union has many
hundreds of empty houses on the
records. This is testimony to
the wasteful attitude of this
society. It becomes obvious
that this society holds the
protection of private property
as a higher priority than hou-
sing the people.... As these
figures denote.



The starving millions told
to fill their begging bowls
with gods poisoness nourishment,
festering vile vomit,
words of deception to
keep up the oppression.

Take your starving misery
and smile at gods injustice,
bought upon by your imagined sin.
Just hope for paradise,next time round.

Sacrafice your soul
upon the alter of lies,
take their false spirituality,
let it hide the stark reality
of millions of starving people.

Just close your eyes
and ignore your hunger
for the priest eats well
and god feasts upon your soul.



DEATH ORGASM

F or your love
I have lain in gutters,
filled with death
and cried in longing
for your silver shaft
of instant release.



DAMAGE 2001 1/4

Limited body
Around limited mind:
This limitation,
Nails you down;
Are you a Jesus Christ clown?
Did you bleed
The blood of accident?
Did your skin meet
The tearing solidity,
And skull-crushing violence
Of that immovable pole?;
That was riveted to
Skin of impersonal asphalt
On the veins of melbourne.



TENANTS ARE GOING TO WIN OUT HERE.

Interview with Gwen Homes 20.2.88

█: I'm speaking with Gwen Holmes who is a tenant in Braybrook-Maidstone area west of Footscray:

The tenants in your estate have been on a rent strike for over 3 months now, why did they go on rent strike?

GWEN: We went on the rent strike because of the pathetic conditions for the tenants here. We were having quite a lot of health hazards; and also cracks 2" and 3" wide in most of the flats; and heaters (gas fires) without fans, which cause enormous gas bills. There is also bad wiring which is causing very high electricity bills. We have very cold winters and the houses are like ovens in the summer, condensation is causing mildew and we think they should be knocked down.

█: Have there been any health effects from them, say their coldness or mildew?

GWEN: There has been arthritis, rheumatism, asthma. There was an outbreak of TB here 18 months ago (which the children are still receiving boosters for) and numerous other conditions such as flu are typical.

█: What is the Ministry proposed to do about all of this?

GWEN: The Ministry of Housing (MOH) have offered to upgrade the flats by spending \$15 - 20,000 on the flats just with a bit of paint and moving a few cupboards around and putting down tiles, but in my own opinion they should have them bulldozed, and we should be given town houses - there is plenty of room out here to do that.

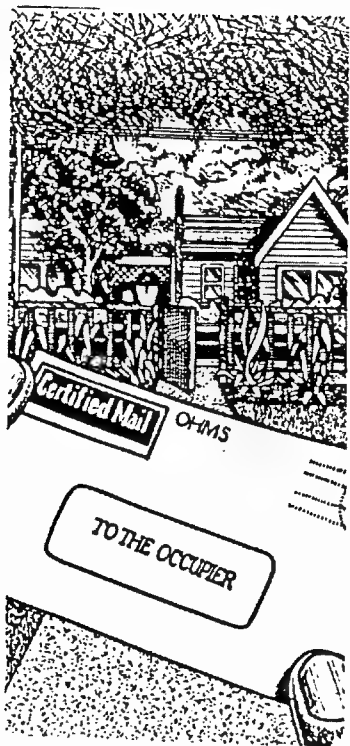
█: What has the MOH said about that?

GWEN: We had a meeting this year with the new Minister, Bunna Walsh, and he is hoping that these flats will not be bulldozed. He wants them upgraded to last till 2020 but the tenants don't want that.

█: Do you reckon it would cost less in the long term to bulldoze the buildings and build new flats instead of just upgrading them?

GWEN: I think it would cost less. The simple reason is we could have a little garden, a little front and back fence, and we could look after our own rubbish and so forth, so it would save the gardeners, we could do our own gardening and also save the maintenance people a lot of trouble by having the new units although we hardly get maintenance here anyway.

█: What sort of maintenance problems have you been having?



GWEN: The main maintenance problem is that we haven't been having any. Our laundries - the washing machines have been breaking down - and the wiring - we have had maintenance people up to have a look at the wiring and they say themselves that it all needs complete new wiring, and the windows are all getting broken on a regular basis. The first week we moved in here we had seven broken windows by school children. They haven't even got safety mesh on the windows to stop that.

[REDACTED]: So you reckon that in the longer term it would have been cheaper to just knock the flats down as opposed to repairing?

GWEN: Yes I do. The MOH have admitted there are two blocks to be underpinned, one of which is my block, and there is another block further down that needs underpinning which is going to cost them anything up to \$10,000 to do. I think that once they start underpinning the bottom, the top floors are going to collapse and come down on top of us.

[REDACTED]: Are there many empty flats in this estate?

GWEN: At the present moment, out of the 32 flats there are 5 empty.

[REDACTED]: How long have they been empty?

GWEN: Well now 4 would have been empty at three months, 1 has been empty for a month.

[REDACTED]: OK, so when did you start going on rent strike here?

GWEN: 3 months ago.

[REDACTED]: I understand that there was a fire in the local MOH Office the day before the rent strike, do you have any comment about that.

GWEN: There was a fire at the maintenance department at Maidstone MOH and maintenance people were under the impression that the Maidstone Tenants Union started it to coincide with our rent strike, which is a lot of rot.

[REDACTED]: How's the rent strike going?

GWEN: Well we are going very well, we have a lot of backing from a lot of big unions, the Nurses Union for one. Irene Bolger was at our last meeting, and we have got a very very big response to our rent strike where a lot of the other areas want to join in.

[REDACTED]: Have the tenants on this estate been sticking together pretty well. What sort of support has there been from them?

GWEN: We are very close on this estate as you know, its only a small estate and we have been getting along quite well with the rent strike as far as the estate is concerned.

[REDACTED]: What sort of thing has the M.O.H done to stop the rent strike-have they been sending out threatening letters or that sort of thing?

GWEN: Well they did send the rent wasn't paid by when we moved in here, to the tribunal-but up til now the tribunal.

[REDACTED]: So they've been trying

GWEN: Yes, I think the big treat of being evicted from the strike here has been good and there have been no evictions.

[REDACTED]: Recently the rent strike this estate to the

Braybrook-how did that come

GWEN: Well this was only actually, and when the people and saw it on TV they rung if they could join in. We sympathy with us Frankston, Dandenong and Wil-



"These flats were built-constructed them because that's what at the end of the 2nd. world housing. They're freezing in winter in summer. Well this is not deserve more than we're getting meeting with Bunna Walsh flats would last another bring it up to 2040 [not built, eh?-the typist]. Now I can't spend all that money-could one of these flats?-no way Bunna to come and live here what the tenants have to put



[REDACTED]: Have other tenants as well?

GWEN: Yes, the tenants in Maidstone too. It'd be roughly 100 at last meeting who pledged to strike. I think the M.O.H was going to escalate-but you-on our estate to pensioners, supporting mothers and earners and that's why we're wasn't for low income earners be an MOH- we are keeping them stupid enough not to realise

end out one letter, that if
by the agreement we signed
that we could be taken to
now no-one's been taken to

ing to bluff people?
big scare out here was the
but as I said-the rent
ing for three months here
action notices as yet.
strike was escalated beyond
rest of Maidstone and
ne about?

ly the tip of the iceberg
ple read it in the papers
ng up our office and asked
We had call after call in
from as far as
Williamstown...



concrete mausoleum I call
they are-we're built at
world war as temporary
n winter and sinking hot
now 1988 and I think we
getting. When we had the
he told us that these
50 years which would
bad for a coat of paint
n't see why they want to
ld I see Bunna living in
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re in the winter and see
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around here joined in as
Maidstone have joined in
0 from the people at our
to enter our rent
wanted to see how far it
t as I was going to tell
there are invalid
hers and low income
're with the M.O.H-if it
s like us there wouldn't
them in work and they're
e that.

[REDACTED]: The Ministry's also been trying a few
tactics to undermine the rent strike-what have
they been?

GWEN: Well, since we started our rent strike there
have been 2 or three tenants on this estate who
were offered and have take M.O.H houses which in
my opinion is just blackmail to try and get them
to pay their money to the ministry. If they are
that desperate, then something must be going on
that's effecting them as far as this estate is
concerned.

[REDACTED]: So they were offered houses before they were
due to get them if they were to pay their rent?

GWEN: Yes-they were offered the houses. Some
people had been here 3 or 4 years but they were
offered the houses once our rent strike started- I
think it's got the ministry very worried.

[REDACTED]: Eric's also here-he's a paid tenant worker
with the Maidstone Braybrook Public Tenants Union
out here-what sort of role has the broader union
movement played out here?

ERIC: Well, Irene Bolger came out here and spoke at
a public meeting-she was outraged at what she saw
on this estate and went back to the executive of
the Trades Hall Council and at the following
meeting they invited a number of tenants from this
estate to speak to them. At that executive meeting
the trade unions in Victoria decided to support
support tenants out here-support that is necessary
if they are going to win this struggle. Now we are
incredibly confident that we are going to win-that
this estate will be bulldozed and new town houses
built-simply because the building unions are going
to put black bans on M.O.H projects and the
Miscellaneous Workers union is possibly going to
stop collecting rent at the Maidstone M.O.H
office. Another union is going to do a study of
the health issues out here. So the unions are
willing to take this stance and they are going to
go to the government and say-"look if you don't do
what the tenants out here are asking -something
that is really quite an obvious thing to do-money
wise as well as health and comfort wise -to knock
these flats down and build new town houses like
you're doing in the southern and eastern suburbs
of Melbourne-then the union movement is going to
put into effect bans that will effect the
Ministry of Housing in enormous ways-they will
stand up and be counted ...so tenants are going
to win out here...



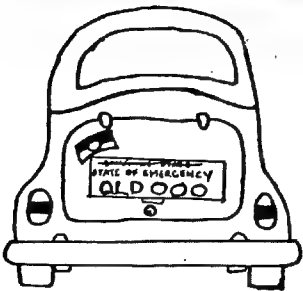
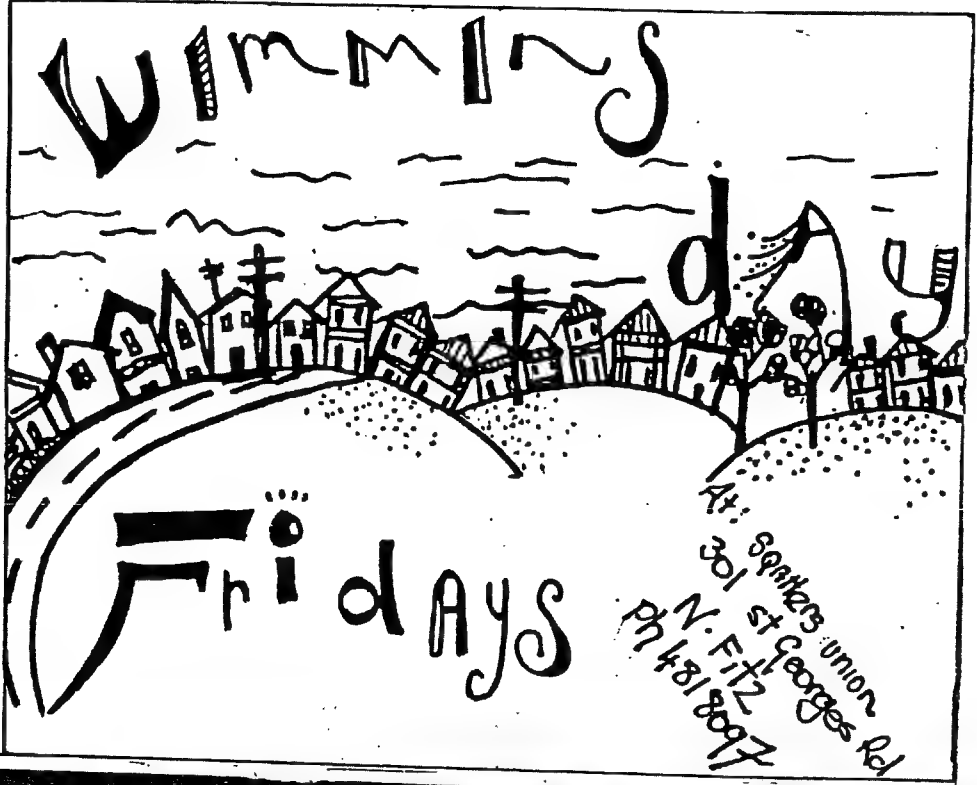
LATEST NEWS [AS OF 10/3/88]

The M.O.H may cut off funding to the M-B-PTU. The union which has not been funded for expenses since December has been paying all costs out of the wages of it's 2 workers. Now even this pittance may stop.

The union has refused to sign a funding agreement which in the words of a worker there "would make us MOH clones. There's no way an independent community group can agree to it". The basis of the MOH demand is that The MOH rather than tenants as represented by the B-M-PTU management committee should control the funded tenant workers. "We refuse to argue the landlords's case-the MOH wants us to advocate renovation on this estate-where temporary housing built 40 years ago to last 20 years still stands-when what Maidstone and Braybrook need is redeveloped public housing of a standard fit to live in."

The B-M-PTU needs your support-if you've got money then send it to them-otherwise message of solidarity and offers of support are equally valid.

You can send them to #6 Commercial St. Maidstone
or Flat 2/93 Hargreaves Cres. Braybrook
or call 311 3918



IF YOU'RE THINKING OF LEAVING TOWN...



...and you're squatting how about helping yourself and others? an empty squat is usually a prime target for vandals or owner repossession or even other squatters-[you know the story about Mrs X going down the shop and coming back and finding her house squatted...] Anyway if you can find other squatters to move in while you're away you'll be stopping those nasty possibilities occurring-and giving someone a place to stay while they get their shit together...if you can't find someone then tell the SUV and we may be able to help...we get single people coming in all the time with nowhere to go and no-one to squat with... they'd be all too happy to mind your squat while you're away and we'd be fucking glad not to see another squat disappear through neglect-let alone yet another fucking empty house.. So go on...give us a ring-and go on your travels safe in the knowledge that your squat isn't lonely or being trashed by it's 'owners'.....

PAY THE RENT



They've tried to shoot it out of us, tried to poison it out of us, they've tried to buy us out of it, but they haven't been able to destroy it. That sense of community we've still got, still got it after 200 years of the most devastating oppression any peoples on earth have been subjected to... we're revitalising it, and that's something that we can hand to white Australia, once the rent is paid and the recognition is given.

PAY THE RENT

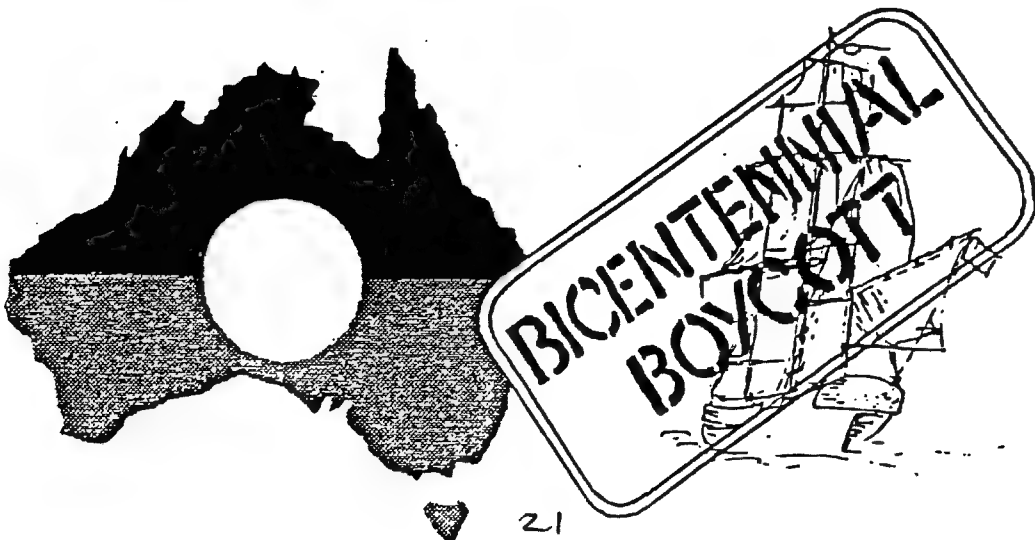
History and the Dreamtime, Spirituality and the Land, Art and Culture - it is impossible to ignore any element of these, when examining the complexities of Land Rights and justice for the Aborigine; complexities for the white man, but the everyday reality for Aboriginal people.

Legislation will only achieve a just situation, and there will only be a proper and lawful relationship between Aborigines and non-Aborigines in our land when prior "ownership" in Aboriginal terms, and hence sovereignty in white man's terms are acknowledged across this land.

The demand for land rights now, is that the non-Aborigines concede our sovereignty over our lands within what is now known as Australia, and begin to pay the rent for whatever areas of land that they now occupy. The obvious consequence of this is that lands they are not renting, revert back to Aboriginal ownership and control, rather than being described as Crown lands. Rent would be assessed according to a number of factors, including the ability to pay, what damage is being done to the land by that occupier, what profit they receive from it etc. For example, a pensioners rent to meet our needs would be minimal compared with that of the multinationals. Rent would be paid to meet specific Aboriginal community needs, e.g. health, housing, education, legal, child care, etc., in the short term and the total community in the long term.

In effect, the payment of rent would mean that non-Aboriginal Australia will at last, after two hundred years, recognise Black sovereignty of this country. This has an inevitable effect; to delay the process is only to deepen further the crisis between Aborigines and non-Aborigines within Australia. What is needed now is some sort of reconciliation and this perception of Black sovereignty and payment of rent is the only recociliation that is reasonable, rational, and responsible.

The only reasonable, rational, and responsible way in which the Australian Government and non-Aboriginal people can end this act of undeclared war (seizure of territory) and aggression, is to with integrity, with commitment, acheivement and respect that will arise out of, and culminate in, a mutual self-respect - PAY THE RENT -



Aboriginal Rights Solidarity Group

-was formed as a support group for Koori people in their struggle for recognition of sovereignty, land rights and self determination; to raise funds; to help co-ordinate non-Aboriginal participation in anti-bicentennial affairs; to spread information. The monthly public meeting of the A.R.S.G. is held on the second Sunday of each month, and is mainly an information exchange. On the first and third Thursday of each month there are meetings to plan activities. At the last meeting, Sunday March 13, the following events were discussed:

Thurs. March 17: Aboriginal Rights Solidarity Group meeting, 6pm, Godsquad building, 60 Queensberry St., Carlton. At 7.30, a video, "Land is Life" will be shown. Talks about Labour Party's land rights policy.

Palm Sunday, March 27, Kooris will lead rally, assembling at Treasury Gardens 1pm.

Wed. 16 March, La Trobe Uni Solidarity Group will meet, 1pm, board room, union building.

Thurs. 17 and Fri. 18 March: Young Koori and Ethnic Womyn's Conference, all day, C.A.E. Conference Centre, 256 Flinders St.

Fri. 25 March: fund-raising quiz night, (Koori questions), Aboriginal Advancement League, 2 Watt St., Thornbury, \$4/8
Sunday 10 April: public meeting of ARSG 2pm Koori Kolliij 36-44 Cambridge St. Collingwood. topic: Black Deaths in Custody Royal Commission.

30 April: Bash Against the Bicentennial Nth Melb town hall

9 May: parliament opens...hsssssss...

you can contact Aboriginal Rights Solidarity Group via 5 Brunswick St. Fitzroy or Barbara or Jo on 4199250

THE ASTOUNDING
SQUATTERS ON AIR!
EVERY FRIDAY

11-30 AM

ON FABULOUS 3CR
855

ON THE A.M. DIAL



Getting In.

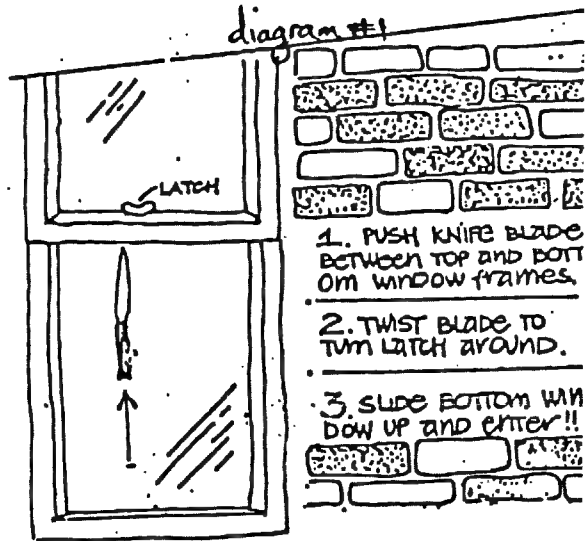
Bring along new barrels for locks, slide bolts, torch or candles, hammer, screwdriver etc. Crowbars are VERY useful items but hard to hide whilst carrying.

You can usually save yourself alot of trouble by finding a back way into the house. Try the obvious ways first - doors, windows, skylights, etc, they are often unlocked. Louvre windows, in most cases, can be easily pulled out of their frames. Old style windows with rotating catches can often be opened by slipping the latches with a knife. (see diagram 1). Some newer type sliding windows can be pulled out of their frames; try pushing the window up in its frame. If all else fails you may be forced to break a window or a door, be sure to repair it afterwards. NB. If you have to make much noise it may be wise to go away and return when the coast is clear.

As a last resort you could consider going in through the roof by removing the tiles and entering through the ceiling hatch. If there is more than one of you, have someone as a lookout while getting in.

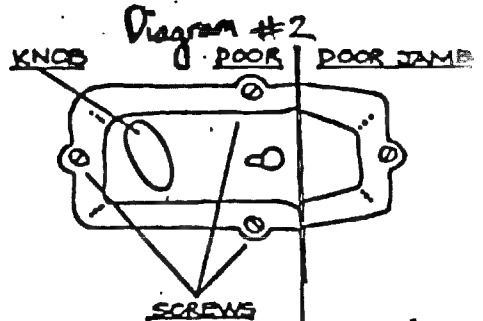
Once in, change all the locks you can. Any doors that you cannot change the locks on, either nail them up or attach bolts to them. This applies to windows as well.

It is important that the house is secure and the only people who can get in or out are you and your friends.

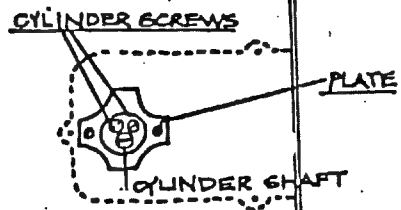


YALE LOCKS

The cylinder/barrels can be changed very easily. (see diagram 2).



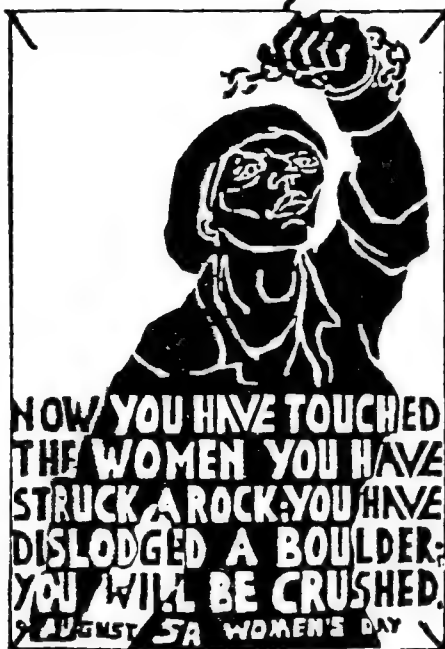
1. REMOVE OUTER SCREWS AND TAKE OFF COVER.....
2. UNSCREW PLATE, TAKE OUT CYLINDER.



3. REPLACE WITH NEW CYLINDER. IF SHAFT IS LONG BREAK IT OFF TO SAME LENGTH AS OLD ONE... AND PRESTO! YOU'RE HOME.

What ever happened to...

The Women's Liberation Move.



A lot of women these days keep asking about the Women's Liberation Movement, as if it hasn't been around for the last ten years. Though it breaks my heart to say it, in many ways this is unfortunately the case. But it is not so much a case of not having been around, but more so, that the Women's Liberation Movement has not made many issues raised directly relevant to the majority of women.

In the early 70's women everywhere were burning their bras and yelling about male chauvinist pigs, and voicing strong opinions in favour of abortion and control over their own lives. If it had not been for these loud, angry protests in the early days, then the name of Women's Liberation would by now have all but died.

In the course of women questioning and opposing the traditional role of women, and trying to develop a new framework from which to start again, there was an enormous amount of pressure placed on the Women's Liberation Movement from (male) society at large. As well as the pressure from outside of the Women's Liberation Movement, women within it felt it necessary to look at their own development as women i.e. how they had been conditioned to fit in, and where in their own personal relationships with men they were having the wool pulled over their eyes. This inward questioning was a good thing, but unfortunately it became an excuse to leave the other battles unfought. Rather than go out onto the streets, into the shopping centres, into women's workplaces and into women's homes to argue against the way men have treated women badly, it became easier to huddle together in groups over a cup of herbal tea and discuss how one's menstrual cycle was integrally related to the oppression of the women down the road in the clothing factory.

It was easier to be co-opted into the social worker (read "do-gooder") mentality and set up cushy jobs for each other in women's refuges or as women youth workers and the like. Many women holding middle-class values were in effect bought-off by the 'careerist' attitudes that they held. That is not to say that I am in any way opposed to the original idea of setting up women's refuges — women very much need places to go to get away from domestic

violence etc. but I am very much opposed to the dominant inclination towards a social worker mentality and the obvious jobs for *only* those in the know. Originally this was not the case, women's refugees were set up as a way of assisting women to get back on their feet, as a way of reaching out and benefiting ALL women — now though, it's not what you know it's who you know and women with different points of view other than what is currently acceptable to the 'Movement' elite haven't got a hope in hell of being heard in that environment.

In the early 70's what was once called the Women's Liberation Movement, is now mainly referred to as the Women's Movement. The word 'Liberation' seems to have been dropped from usage. That has not happened by chance, it has happened because many women within the Women's Liberation Movement are no longer thinking about women's rights, women's freedom, women's liberation — the attack has become an inward attack. These women must go, they must be pushed aside for they are holding back a true Women's Liberationist Movement.

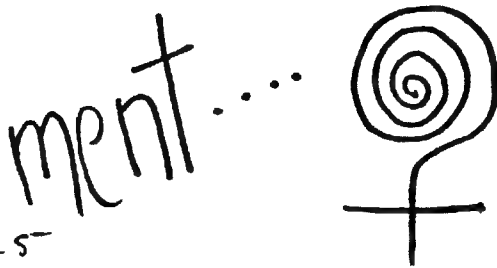
In many ways men have beaten us (but not for long) they have succeeded by applying massive pressure on women liberationists in the 70's, they have bought-off women and succeeded in making women fight each other. They have turned our once outward fight into an inward looking fight. The question is *not* 'were you at a demonstration against the Right to Life' it is now 'why should you bother to be at a demonstration against the Right to Life'. The question is *not* 'Are you getting maltreated by your husband' it is 'why should we bother to support you undermining us by living with a man'.

The old male tactic of setting women against each other has worked — women are at each others throats as if nothing else in life mattered. But don't get me wrong — I'm not against open differences of opinion and I certainly don't think because we're all women in this together, everything is going to be rosy. In fact, I can't stand that smoothing over attitude. What I do think is that we've got to stand up and fight out in the open, against any amount of pressure to stop us — and that leaves out all the weaklings in the existing Women's Liberation Movement who need 24-hour support and numerous cups of tea to keep their strength up. It means leaving out women pushing middle-class ideas — women who believe they benefit from class oppression.

This fight is up to the women who have no longer got anything to lose, but have got heaps to gain. This fight must be relevant to the majority of women, it must be about the struggles of everyday existence i.e. money, kids, bashings, class, race, etc. etc. I mean I don't really give a shit about someone's sexuality as long as they've got the right to choose it, and as long as they're against the oppression of women. Let's get away from the inward moralizing.

So when we yell 'Working Women of the World Unite' — just remember you work like a dog at home with the kids. This fight's for you.

Sallee McLaren





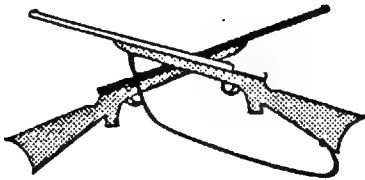
ARMS ~~ARMS~~ FOR THE POOR

By Bill Bartlett

On Tuesday the December 8th 1987, a 22 year old former law student entered the Australia Post HQ in central Melbourne and shot 13 office workers, killing eight before ending his own life.

Politicians, spurred on by the monopoly media, immediately seized on the incident. Taking advantage of the widespread horror in the community at the senseless death of 8 innocent people, they began pushing for "reform" of gun laws.

The Victorian Premier immediately announced the banning of semi-automatic rifles. NSW Premier Unsworth went a step further, proposing to outlaw the private ownership of firearms and the Prime Minister soon jumped on the bandwagon, calling a Premiers Conference aimed at uniform gun laws throughout Australia.



What is the meaning of all this? I don't pretend to know how to prevent such tragedies, but surely there would be few who would seriously argue that "gun control" will stop maniacs from

committing murder. Most murders are committed without firearms, but more importantly, supporters of "gun control" are not proposing that the security forces (the army, cops etc.) be disarmed, only the civilian population. This seems paradoxical when it is considered that only members of the security forces are actually trained to use firearms against people.

It is safe to assume that the security forces would contain proportionately more homicidal maniacs than the general population, so why exclude them from gun control?

There has been a loud call for a national gun register, but what would that achieve? The Queen St Killer was a registered gun owner -that didn't stop him. The only way a national gun register could conceivably be relevant is if it was designed to enable eventual confiscation of all firearms, where of course it is first necessary to know who has them.

IF GUNS ARE OUTLAWED...ONLY THE LAW WILL HAVE GUNS!

This is apparently what the ruling class seek - the total disarming of the civilian population and it is something we should oppose strenuously. Not that everyone should own a gun, only a minority would have any use for one. That is not the point, the point is that the people have a right to possess arms.

We have good reason to distrust the push for "gun control", it must always be kept in mind that an unarmed civilian population is the first pre-requisite for dictatorship and repression. For example, how long would apartheid survive in South Africa if any substantial minority of blacks possessed arms? Needless to say they don't.

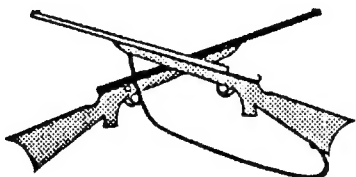
Ownership of arms by the masses is not tolerated in any dictatorship, but it is not

only dictatorships that rule by force, in the final analysis all ruling powers maintain their rule by force, or threat of force. In the western so-called democracies there is widespread tolerance of the state, but dissent is still treated ruthlessly. Armed police and even the army have been used many times in Australia to break up strikes and demonstrations.

And in the bi-centennial year, we should also remember that it was the eureka stockade, not moral argument, that frightened the ruling class of the day into introducing male suffrage in Victoria last century.

Just as the ruling elite maintain their rule by threat of violence, in the long run the ordinary working people can only hold onto and improve their rights by strength. Social justice is a concept which our masters set little store by.

The desire of the ruling elite to strip the civilian population of their right to own



Taken from 'Unemployed Action'
UWU Launceston.

guns is probably evidence of their anxiety over long-term economic trends. No wonder, there are about 40 million people unemployed just in the western industrialised nations of the world - the wealthiest countries.

Many more live in degrees of poverty in these countries and just a few weeks ago stock markets in all the capitalist countries experienced their worst ever crash. Worse even than the crash of 1929, which led to the Great Depression.

There is no doubt that they will attempt to recoup their losses at the expense of working people, by attacking wages and conditions and throwing millions more out of work.

So Gun control in Australia must be seen against the background of the Government's attempt to introduce an ID card, anti trade union laws and other attacks on conditions. Drastic cuts in living standards are planned to be imposed, the masses must be kept under firm control. Especially as the disparity between rich and poor becomes more pronounced - and more obvious.

We are entering a new era of social turmoil, violence by the elite to protect their vested interests will inevitably increase. If ordinary people have no means of defence against them and the associated forces of the state, then we will have even more to fear.

PLEASURE TENDENCIES

GO ON
WINDOW SHOP WITH A BRICK



WHY CAN'T WE HAVE WHAT WE WANT NOW?

Enticed by 'nice' window displays we all continue to trudge to work everyday hoping to be content at some future time. **WHEN?**

Do we take what is ours or ask that we be given?

LONDON NEWS

HACKNEY SQUATTERS



SQUATTERS HALT EVICTIONS

An attempted mass eviction of squatters on the STAMFORD HILL ESTATE on the 5th of October had to be abandoned when over a hundred people turned out, to resist the 50 assorted bailiffs, council officials, and police. Only six of the 100-plus squats were evicted. Later, squatters occupied the housing office at Stamford Hill and called upon the workers to support them.

Hackney is not the only area where squatters are getting more militant as evictions and yuppification of the inner city areas increase. In Brixton a bailiff got beaten up, his van was paint bombed and his radio nicked. Never the less the heavily barricaded flats in Tulse Hill estate got evicted in the end.

Hackney in east London has been in the news in the last few months with squatters and tenants resisting evictions and breaking up council meetings. There are 4000 empty council properties in Hackney, 1200 of which are squatted. 800 families are forced to live in Bed and Breakfasts (cheap hotel accomodation) because the council is unable to house them. Recently the council have decided to step up evictions and become tougher against squatters. They've justified rent increases by saying they need more money because of the squatting problem. Squatters and tenants have reacted angrily. Bailiffs will no longer carry out evictions without police protection. A short list of some of the things that have happened :

- housing office burnt down
- Council chambers taken over three times , councillors fled
- The Chair of Housing has gone into hiding after his house was trashed
- about a hundred squatters take over another housing office and run off with hundreds of keys and important documents
- Bailiff's vans attacked
- Flats resisted and/or squatted every week.....!!!!!!

Stop the rot



PEOPLE LIVING in Hyson Green, Nottingham are protesting angrily at plans to build a "hypermarket" on a site where badly-needed housing had been promised. They see the superstore, another in the ASDA chain, as having a massive impact on their community. ASDA expect an extra 10,000 cars a week on already badly-congested roads with an appalling record of traffic accidents and injuries. As 1 leaflet explains:

"If ASDA comes, all roads for half a mile around will be even more congested. This will cause greater risk to local people, including the elderly, disabled and children coming to and from school and playing in the streets. Even ASDA's own traffic consultants have said they couldn't have chosen a worse site."

A broad-based community action group has come together to fight ASDA's plans. With the slogan "Hyson Green for Homes not Hypermarkets" they've organised street demonstrations and angry lobbies of city council planning department meetings. The site ASDA want to build on is currently occupied by the Hyson Green Flats complex. Built after the last war - like many other inner city tower blocks - it was meant to help alleviate bad housing conditions and now needs to be demolished after costly attempts to patch it up fail-

Homes not Supermarkets

ed time and again. Many families eagerly agreed to move out after council assurances that decent new housing would be built in its place.

But the demands of Hyson Green people for better housing have been ignored, as have the needs of the 8,000 people on the council's housing list. The Tory-led city council granted ASDA planning permission before Xmas, with 1 councillor admitting she had "financial interests in the ASDA group". With all legal means exhausted the way is open for a campaign of community direct action as building work on ASDA gets underway. It's clear that many residents won't passively watch the construction of a huge hypermarket on their doorstep. If ASDA think the battle is over they're in for a shock.

The Mag That Blew Out The Sun!!

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\$2 MILLION IS WHAT IT COSTS IN LOST MILK PROFITS . BECAUSE WE WANT TO KEEP OUR PROFITS HIGH, WE ADD THIS TO THE COST OF YOUR MILK RATHER THAN CHOP A FEW FEET OFF OUR YACHTS. IT'S ILLEGAL TO BE IN POSSESSION OF MILK CRATES BUT THAT'S NOT REALLY THE POINT. TO MAINTAIN OUR PROFITS WE JUST HAVE TO HAVE OUR CRATES BACK. AND KEEP THE POLICE FOR BETTER THINGS LIKE DEALING SMACK, SMASHING UNIONS, AND PROTECTING TAX EVADERS LIKE JOHN ELLIOT AND BOB HAWK. WE KNOW THAT MILK CRATES ARE HANDY AROUND THE HOUSE, BUT THEN SO IS OUR BUTLER. WE KNOW WHAT WE PREFER. BY THE WAY, YOU MILK CRATE THIEVES HAVE ACTUALLY CREATED A WHOLE NEW MARKET FOR US - WE SELL PINK MILK CRATES TO STUPID YUPPIES FOR \$50 IN TARGET. SO PLEASE GIVE US SOME MORE MONEY - WE KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT HEAPS OF MONEY TO SPARE FROM YOUR \$100 A WEEK. CALL AND WE'LL TAKE AWAY YOUR CRATES - NO QUESTIONS ASKED - JUST A SMILE OF THANKS AS WE SIP SOME MORE CHAMPAGNE AND YOU SIT ON THE FLOOR.



Help us Milk you better

AFTER THAT WE GET NASTY : OUR MATES BONDY AND BOB HAVE HAD LESSONS FROM CHILE AND PALESTINE.